

**IN THE TITLE**

Please delete the title as originally filed, and replace with:

-- Method for Selectively Blocking Remote Purchase Requests --

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please delete the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 1 of the present application, and replace it with:

--This application is a divisional of application serial number 09/017,403, filed February 2, 1998 (now U.S. Patent 6,108,642), which is incorporated by reference herein and to which priority is claimed.--

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND CLAIM LISTING**

Claims 1 – 3 are hereby cancelled from this application. New claims 4 - 12 are added hereby. Following is a listing of claims as they stand in this application following entry of the present amendment.

4. (new) A method for selectively blocking a remote purchase request in which a purchaser attempts to use a card number to make a remote purchase, comprising:

providing a memory subsystem for receiving and storing information from a purchase request information set including an origin of the purchase request representing either a telephone number or internet address, a card number, a requested item identification, and a number of requested items;

receiving and storing in said memory a current remote purchase request information set;

providing a logic subsystem;

determining, in said logic subsystem, whether the number of items in remote purchase requests from the origin in a same class as the requested item exceeds a preset threshold number of such items; and

blocking the remote purchase request if the number of items in the same class as the requested item purchased from the origin exceeds the preset threshold number of such items.

5. (new) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

the step of determining further determines whether the number of items in a same class as the requested item purchased from the origin within a set time period exceeds a preset threshold number of such items for the set time period; and

the step of blocking blocks the remote purchase request if the number of items in the same class as the requested item purchased from the origin within the set time period exceeds the preset threshold number of such items for the set time period.

6. (new) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

the number of items in the same class as the requested item includes the number of said item in the remote purchase request.

7. (new) The method of claim 4, wherein a merchant delivers remote purchase requests to a card issuer for approval and processing, further comprising:

the step of determining being made prior to delivery of the remote purchase request to the card issuer; and

the step of blocking further comprises the step of blocking the remote purchase request being delivered to the card issuer.

8. (new) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

determining whether said origin is a public or semi-public telephone; and

blocking said remote purchase request if said origin is a public or semi-public telephone.

9. (new) A method for selectively blocking a remote purchase request in which a purchaser attempts to use a card number to make a remote purchase, comprising:

providing a memory subsystem for receiving and storing information from a purchase request information set including an origin of the purchase request representing either a telephone number or internet address, a card number, a requested item identification, a number of requested items, and a cost of purchase;

receiving and storing in said memory a current remote purchase request information set; providing a logic subsystem;

determining, in said logic subsystem, whether the total cost of purchases in remote purchase requests from the origin within a set time period prior to the remote purchase request exceeds a preset threshold total cost of purchases; and

blocking the remote purchase request if the total cost of purchases from the origin within the set time period prior to the remote purchase request exceeds the preset threshold total cost of purchases.

10. (new) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

the total cost of purchases from the origin within the set time period includes the cost of the remote purchase request.

11. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein a merchant delivers remote purchase requests to a card issuer for approval and processing, further comprising:

the step of determining being made prior to delivery of the remote purchase request to the card issuer; and

the step of blocking further comprises the step of blocking the remote purchase request being delivered to the card issuer.

12. (new) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

determining whether said origin is a public or semi-public telephone; and

blocking said remote purchase request if said origin is a public or semi-public telephone.